

## HIS

To HISS. *v. a.* [hissee, Saxon.]

1. To condemn by hissing; to explode.

Every one will hiss him out of his disgrace. *Esch. xxii. 1.*

Men shall pursue with merited disgrace;

Hiss, clap their hands, and from his country chase. *Sandys.*

She would so shamefully fail in the last act, that, instead

of plaudite, she would deserve to be hissed off the stage. *Mere.*

I have seen many successions of men, who have shot them-

selves into the world, some bolting out upon the stage with

vast applause, and others hissed off; and quitting it with dis-

grace. *Dryden.*

Will you venture your all upon a cause, which would be

hissed out of all the courts as ridiculous? *Collier on Duelling.*

2. To procure hisses or disgrace.

Thy mother plays, and I

Play too; but so disgrac'd a part, whose issue

Will hiss me to my grave. *Shakef. Winter's Tale.*

What's the newest grief?

—That of an hour's age doth hiss the speaker,

Each minute teems a new one. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

HISS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. The voice of a serpent, and of some other animals.

2. Censure; expression of contempt used in theatres.

He heard

On all sides, from innumerable tongues,

A dismal universal hiss, the sound

Of public scorn! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x.*

Pierce champion fortitude, that knows no fears

Of hisses, blows, or want, or loss of ears. *Pope's Dunciad.*

HIST. *interj.* [Of this word I know not the original: probably

it may be a corruption of *hush*, *hush it*, *hush it*.] An excla-

mation commanding silence.

—Hush! Romeo, hush! O for a falconer's voice,

To lure this tassel'd gentle back again. *Shakef. Rom. and Jul.*

Mute silence hiss along!

'Lest Philomel will deign a song,

In her sweetest saddest plight, *Milton.*

Smoothing the rugged brow of night.

Hiss, hiss, says another that stood by, away, doctor; for

here's a whole pack of distals coming. *Swift.*

HISTORIAN. *n. f.* [historicus, Latin; historien, French.] A

writer of facts and events; a writer of history.

What thanks sufficient, or what recompence

Equal, have I to render thee, divine

Historian! *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. viii.*

Our country, which has produced writers of the first figure

in every other kind of work, has been very barren in good

historians. *Adisson's Freeholder.*

Not added years on years my task could close,

The long historian of my country's woes. *Pope's Odyssey.*

HISTORICAL. *adj.* [historique, Fr. historicus, Latin.]

1. Containing or giving an account of facts and events.

Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you

know the occasion of these several adventures; for the meth-

od of a poet historical is not such as of an historiogra-

pher. *Spenser.*

Here rising bold, the patriot's honest face;

There warriors frowning in historick bras. *Pope.*

2. Suitable or pertaining to history or narrative.

In an historical relation we use terms that are most proper

and best known. *Burriel's Theory of the Earth.*

With equal justice and historick care,

Their laws, their toils, their arms with his compare. *Prior.*

HISTORICALLY. *adv.* [from historical.] In the manner of

history; by way of narration.

The gospels, which are weekly read, do all historically de-

clare something which our Lord Jesus Christ himself either

spoke, did, or suffered in his own person. *Hooker, b. v.*

When that which the word of God doth but deliver histo-

rically, we construe as if it were legally meant, and so urge it

further than we can prove it was intended, do we not add to

the laws of God? *Hooker, b. iii. f. 5.*

After his life has been rather invented than written, I shall

consider him historically as an author, with regard to those

works he has left behind him. *Pope's Essay on Homer.*

TO HISTORIFY. *v. a.* [from history.] To relate; to record

in history.

O, muse, historify

Her praise, whose praise to learn your skill hath framed

me. *Sidney, b. i.*

The third age they term historicon; that is, such wherein

matters have been more truly historified, and therefore may

be believed. *Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. vi. c. 6.*

HISTORIOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [historia and γραφω; historiographos,

Fr.] An historian; a writer of history.

Because the beginning seemeth abrupt, it needs that you

know the occasion of these knights several adventures; for the

method of a poet historical is not such as of an historiogra-

pher. *Spenser.*

What poor ideas must strangers conceive of these persons

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who have been famous among us, should they form their no-

tions of them from the writings of those our historiographers?

*Adisson's Freeholder, No. 35.*

I put the journals of all transactions into a strong box, after

the manner of the historiographers of some eastern monarchs.

*Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

HISTORIOGRAPHY. *n. f.* [ιστορια and γραφω.] The art or

employment of an historian.

HISTORY. *n. f.* [ιστορια; historia, Latin; histoire, French.]

1. A narration of events and facts delivered with dignity.

Justly Caesar scorns the poet's lays;

It is to history he trusts for praise. *Pope.*

2. Narration; relation.

The history part lay within a little room. *Wise man's Surgery.*

What histories of toil could I declare?

But still long-weary'd nature wants repair. *Pope's Odyssey.*

3. The knowledge of facts and events.

History, so far as it relates to the affairs of the Bible, is

necessary to divines. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

HISTORY PICTURE. *n. f.* A picture representing some memorable

event.

The former makes his works resemble a large history piece,

where even the less important figures have some convenient

place. *Pope's Essay on Homer's Battle.*

HISTORIONICAL. *adj.* [from historion, Latin; historien, Fr.]

HISTORIONICK. *adj.* Beating the stage; suitable to a player;

becoming a buffoon; theatrical.

HISTORIONICALLY. *adv.* [from historionical.] Theatrically; in

the manner of a buffoon.

TO HIT. *v. a.* [from idus, Latin; Minshew, from hitte, Danish;

to throw at random, Junius.]

1. To strike; to touch with a blow.

When I first saw her I was presently stricken; and I, like a

foolish child, that when any thing hits him will strike himself

again upon it, would needs look again, as though I would per-

suade mine eyes that they were deceived. *Sidney, b. i.*

His conscience shall hit him in the teeth, and tell him his

sin and folly. *South's Sermon.*

2. To touch the mark; not to miss.

Is he a god that ever flies the light?

Or naked he, disguised in all untruth?

If he be blind, how hitteth he so right? *Sidney, b. ii.*

So hard it is to tremble, and not to err, and to hit the

mark with a shaking hand. *South's Sermon.*

3. To attain; to reach the point.

Were I but twenty-one,

Your father's image is so hit in you,

His very air, that I should call you brother,

As I did him. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

Search every comment that your care can find,

Some here, some there, may hit the poet's mind. *Roscomm.*

Birds learning tunes, and their endeavours to hit the notes

right, put it past doubt that they have perception, and retain

ideas, and use them for patterns. *Lake.*

Here's an opportunity to shew how great a bungler my au-

thor is in hitting features. *Atterbury.*

4. To strike a ruling passion.

Hail, divinest melancholy!

Whose faintly visage is too bright

To hit the sense of human fight. *Milton.*

There you hit him: St. Dominick loves charity exceeding-

ly; that argument never fails with him. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

5. To hit off. To strike out; to fix or determine luckily.

What prince soever can hit off this great secret, need know

no more either for his own safety, or that of the people he

governs. *Temple.*

6. To hit out. To perform by good luck.

Having the sound of these ancient poets still ringing in his

ears, he mought needs in singing hit out some of their tunes.

*Spenser's Pastoral.*

TO HIT. *v. n.*

1. To clash; to collide.

If bodies be extension alone, how can they move and hit

one against another; or what can make distinct surfaces in an

uniform extension? *Lake.*

The bones, teeth, and shells being sustained in the water

with these metallic corpuscles, and the said corpuscles meet-

ing with and hitting upon those bodies, become conjoined with

them. *Woodward's Natural History.*

2. To chance luckily; to succeed by accident; not to miss.

Of expectation fails, and most oft there

Where most it promises; and oft it hits

Where hope is coldest, and despair most fits. *Shakef. Lear.*

There is a kind of conveying of effectual and imprinting

passages amongst compliments, which is of singular use, if a

man can hit upon it. *Bacon's Essay.*

3. To succeed; not to miscarry.

The experiment of binding of thoughts would be diver-

sified, and you are to note whether it hits for the most part.

*Leeson's Natural History.*

Est

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But thou bring't valour too and wit, *Hudibras, p. i.*

Two things that seldom fail to hit.

This may hit, 'tis more than barely possible; for friars have

free admittance into every house. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

All human race would fain be wits,

And millions miss for one that hits. *Swift.*

4. To light on.

You've hit upon the very string, which touch'd,

Echoes the found, and jars within my soul;

There lies my grief. *Dryden's Spanish Fryar.*

It is much, if men were from eternity, that they should

not find out the way of writing before that time: sure he

was a fortunate man, who, after men had been eternally so

dull as not to find it out, had the luck at last to hit upon

it. *Tillotson's Sermons.*

There's a just medium betwixt eating too much and too lit-

tle; and this dame had hit upon't, when the matter was so

ordered that the hen brought her every day an egg. *L'Estr.*

None of them hit upon the art. *Adisson's Guardian.*

There's but a true and a false prediction in any telling of

fortune; and a man that never hits on the right side, cannot be

called a bad guesser, but must miss out of design. *Bentley.*

HIT. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. A stroke.

The king hath laid, that in a dozen passes between him and

him, he shall not exceed you three hits. *Shakef. Hamlet.*

So he the fam'd Cilician fencer prais'd,

And at each hit with wonder seem'd amaz'd. *Dryd. Juven.*

2. A lucky chance.

Have all his ventures fail'd? What, not one hit?

To suppose a watch, by the blind hits of chance, to per-

form diversity of orderly motions, without the regulation of

art, this were the more pardonable absurdity. *Clarville.*

If the rule we judge by be uncertain, it is odds but we

shall judge wrong; and if we should judge right, yet it is not

properly skill, but chance; not a true judgment, but a lucky

hit. *South's Sermons.*

But with more lucky hit than those

That use to make the stars depose. *Hudibras, p. i.*

The fisherman's waiting, and the lucky hit it had in the

conclusion, tells us, that honest endeavours will not fail. *L'Estr.*

These hits of words a true poet often finds, without seek-

ing. *Dryden's Duffrenoy.*

If casual concurrence did the world compose,

And things and hits fortuitous arose,

'Then any thing might come from any thing;

For how from chance can constant order spring? *Blackmore.*

If at first he minds his hits,

And drinks champagne among the wits,

Five deep he toasts the tower's lassies. *Prior.*

TO HIT. *v. n.* [hican, Saxon, or hacher, French. Skinner.]

To catch; to move by jerks. I know not where it is used but

in the following passage.

Whoe'er offends, at some unlucky time

Slides in a verse, or hitches in a rhyme;

Sacred to ridicule his whole life long,

And the sad burden of some merry song. *Pope's Horace.*

TO HITCHEL. *v. a.* [See HATCHEL.] To beat or comb flax

or hemp.

HITCHEL. *n. f.* [heckel, German.] The instrument with which

flax is beaten or combed.

HITING. *n. f.* [hican, Saxon.] A small haven to land wares out

of vessels or boats: as *Queenhithe*, and *Lambhithe*, now *Lam-*

*beth*.